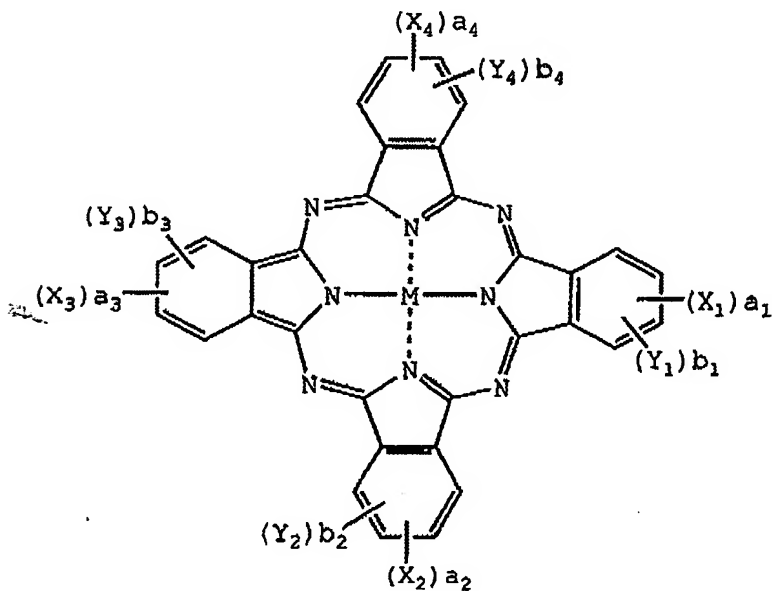


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inkjet recording ink comprising an aqueous medium having dissolved or dispersed therein a dye represented by the following formula (I),

wherein the total amount of a cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is 0.5 wt% or less:

Formula (I)

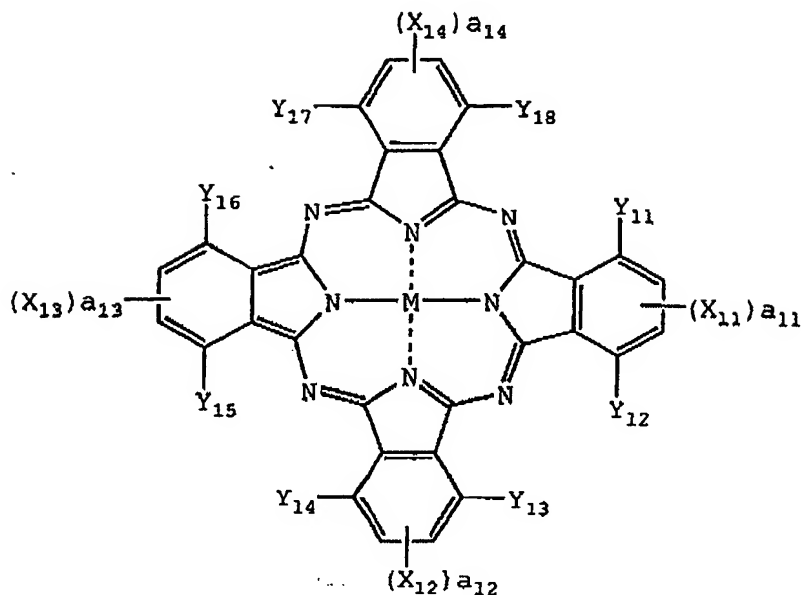


wherein X_1 , X_2 , X_3 and X_4 each independently represents $-SO-$, $-SO_2-Z$, $-SO_2NR_1R_2$, a sulfo group, $-CONR_1R_2$ or $-CO_2R_1$; Z represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a

substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; R_1 and R_2 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, and when a plurality of Zs are present, the Zs may be the same or different; Y_1 , Y_2 , Y_3 and Y_4 each independently represents a monovalent substituent, and when a plurality of X_1s , X_2s , X_3s , X_4s , Y_1s , Y_2s , Y_3s or Y_4s are present, the X_1s , X_2s , X_3s , X_4s , Y_1s , Y_2s , Y_3s or Y_4s may be the same or different; a_1 to a_4 and b_1 to b_4 represent the number of substituents X_1 to X_4 and Y_1 to Y_4 , respectively; a_1 to a_4 each independently represents an integer of 0 to 4 but all of a_1 to a_4 are not 0 at the same time; b_1 to b_4 each independently represents an integer of 0 to 4; M represents a hydrogen atom, a metal atom, or an oxide, hydroxide or halide thereof.

2. The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, wherein the dye represented by formula (I) is a dye

represented by the following formula (II):



wherein X_{11} to X_{14} , Y_{11} to Y_{18} and M have the same meanings as X_1 to X_4 , Y_1 to Y_4 and M in the formula (I), respectively, and a_{11} to a_{14} each independently represents an integer of 1 or 2.

3. The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, which comprises at least one of a lithium ion and a hydrogen ion.

4. The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, wherein the cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary

nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is at least one selected from the group consisting of a potassium ion, a sodium ion, a cesium ion, a magnesium ion, a zinc ion, a calcium ion, a strontium ion, an aluminum ion and a transition metal ion.

5. The inkjet recording ink as described in claim 1, wherein the cation in said ink except for a lithium ion, a hydrogen ion, an ammonium ion, an organic quaternary nitrogen ion and an ion produced by the proton addition to a nitrogen atom in a basic organic material is at least one of a potassium ion and a sodium ion.